

HCR 135



STATE OF HAWAII
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April 24, 2009

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 135, STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF
ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF JUVENILE INTAKE AND
ASSESSMENT CENTERS, AS EMBODIED BY THE PROPOSED
PILOT BIG ISLAND JUVENILE INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT
CENTER, THROUGHOUT THE STATE**

Hearing: Friday, April 24, 2009; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports this resolution as a system of juvenile intake and assessments centers would fill a gap in current juvenile justice services and provide new prevention and intervention strategies for juvenile arrestees and their families.

We commend the County of Hawaii Office of the Prosecuting Attorney and other Hawaii County stakeholders for proposing a Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center that now serves as an excellent conceptual model for this network of juvenile centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Aloha Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keone De Freitas and I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of **HCR135**. The ability to pull down federal funds to State of Hawaii is crucial to keep our economy afloat. This pilot project will give Hawaii, more specifically, the Big Island federal funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

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April 24, 2009

The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services
And Senate Committee on Public Safety
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: House Concurrent Resolution 135, STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF JUVENILE INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS, AS EMBODIED BY THE PROPOSED PILOT BIG ISLAND JUVENILE INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Aloha, Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Espero and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in favor of HCR 135, which expresses support for a system of juvenile intake and assessment centers. Such a system would address a longstanding problem in the juvenile justice system in Hawai'i County.

A survey of Big Island police in 2006 found officers often have no good options when dealing with arrested juveniles who need supervision, but cannot go home, and who do not need secure custody. Existing programs are fragmented, and may not accept youth who are disruptive or are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center would help law enforcement by providing a safe holding place for youth so that officers can return to patrol duty.

This program would provide a center where agencies can reach out to at-risk youth, and our young people can get effective help. Police, prosecutors, Third Circuit Court and the state Departments of Education, Health and Human Services have all signed agreements to participate in BIJAC and centralize services.

This year we requested start-up funding for a pilot project in Pahoehoe to provide a single point of entry for intake, assessment and case management for at-risk youth, and we plan to pursue this important effort in the future. Effectively intervening and providing services to these at-risk youths can keep them from graduating into the adult correctional system, and will save the state money in the long run.

Mahalo for your consideration.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

JAY T. KIMURA
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

April 23, 2009

Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
Chair, Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Senate

Honorable Will Espero
Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Chairs Chun Oakland and Espero, and Committee Members:

Testimony in support of HCR 135, Supporting a system of juvenile intake and assessment centers

As Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii, I am very pleased to submit this testimony in support of HCR 135.

The idea of establishing one or more centers, where youth in need of safety, supervision, and services can be helped in an integrated and cost-effective way, has been developing since at least 2003. In 2006, with the encouragement of this Legislature (HCR 250, HR 190), my office took on the task of "putting flesh on the bones," and in collaboration with the Judiciary; State Departments of Human Services, Education, and Health; County Police Department; and the Office of the Public Defender, prepared a plan that we believe is both meritorious and practical. However, unfortunately, we find ourselves, as does the rest of Hawaii, in a financial situation that leaves many worthy projects on the drawing board for lack of funding.

HCR 135, if adopted, would give us the recognition that our concepts are on the right track, and that would mean a great deal to us. It is also possible that with this legislative "seal of approval," we would be able to attract new partners, as well as explore funding opportunities that might not otherwise be available to us. It will not be easy, and we will likely be back in future years asking for monetary support, but in the meantime we will do what we can to make progress, since we believe that this concept deserves to move forward.

Thank you for any support you can give to HCR 135. Thank you, too, for the support you gave to the companion measures, SR 95 and SCR 143; SCR 143 is now pending in the House.

Very truly yours,

JAY T. KIMURA
Prosecuting Attorney

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April 23, 2009

Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
Chair, Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Senate

Honorable Will Espero
Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate

Testimony in support of HCR 135, Supporting a system of juvenile intake and assessment centers

Submitted by Charlene Y. Iboshi, First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

To: Chairs Chun Oakland and Espero, and Committee Members:

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii submits this testimony in support of HCR 135, and we thank you both for introducing the companion measures (SR 95 and SCR 143) and for having this hearing.

This concurrent resolution acknowledges the need, and validates the work done to date by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney and our partners in County and State government as well as the private sector, to establish a single point of entry for intake, assessment, and case management of delinquent and at-risk youth. Such a center would benefit law enforcement, the courts and probation, youth-serving agencies, the general public, and above all, youth and their families.

When the State's financial situation improves, we are hopeful that this concept can be fully funded as appropriate, but we certainly understand that such funding is not possible at the present time. Therefore, in the interim, this resolution will be of great benefit to us, as we try to find alternate means by which to move forward on this exciting concept.

We truly appreciate your endorsement of our efforts, and thank you for this opportunity to testify.